

Early Explorers

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Marco Polo

Marco Polo traveled from Italy to China. He crossed dry deserts and high mountains. After four years he reached China. He stayed there for 17 years. Marco Polo was amazed at the sights he saw. He saw wonderful cities and palaces. He saw diamonds and jewels. He wrote a book about his travels.

Ibn Batuta



Ibn Batuta came from North Africa. He went by camel across Asian deserts. He sailed in a dhow to China and the East. His journey lasted for 30 years.

Columbus



Columbus wanted to get to China. He thought he could get there by sailing west. No one had dared to do this before. He took 120 men and three ships with him.



The Queen of Spain paid for the expedition. All the sailors slept on the open deck. After 37 days, they landed in the Bahamas. Columbus had found the New World.

Vasco da Gama



sailed around Africa to India. He wanted to buy Indian spices. Many of his sailors died of scurvy. He traveled more than 24,000 miles.

Jhon Cabot



Cabot set out to look for Asia. He found the coast of North America. His men ate moldy biscuits and pickled pork. On his next

journey, his ship disappeared.

Ferdinand Magellan



Magellan's ship sailed around the world. On the way, they ran out of food. The men ate rats to stay alive. Magellan proved the world is round.

Cartier



Cartier went northwest, looking for China. The French king asked him to find gold. He landed in Canada and met the people. Canada was rich in timber and furs.

Raleigh



Raleigh took people to settle in America. He named the settlement Virginia. In America, he found tobacco and potatoes. He took them back to England.



Cortés Cortés met the Aztec Emperor. The Aztec city was full of treasures. Cortés and his soldiers fought the Aztecs. They took the treasures and destroyed the city.

Pizarro



Pizarro was brave, bold, and greedy. He took soldiers to the rich Inca Empire. They captured the Inca prince. They seized all the Inca

treasures.

James cook



Cook discovered New Zealand and Australia. He sailed in a ship called the 'Endeavour'. He gave his crew fruit to keep them healthy. He made careful maps of his journeys.

Burke



Burke led an expedition across Australia. No one had made this journey before. They used camels to cross the deserts. On the way back, they died of starvation.

Livingstone



Livingstone explored in Africa, on foot. He traveled where no white man had been. No one heard from him for a long time. People at home were worried.

Stanley



Stanley learned a lot from Livingstone. He went on exploring Africa himself. He took porters to carry his supplies. He found where the River Nile started.

Kingsley



Kingsley wanted to study African customs. In those days, women did not travel much. She was fearless and determined. She traveled up rivers and mountains.

Peary



Peary spent years exploring the Arctic. He learned how to survive the cold. He used dogs to pull his sleds. He was the first to reach the North Pole.

Amundsen



Amundsen wanted to get to the South Pole. He raced to be the first to get there. He planned carefully for the cold weather. He was the first to reach the South Pole.

